



Commonwealth of Kentucky
Kentucky Department of Corrections

For Immediate Release

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**Gary Beckstrom to Retire as Warden of EKCC;
Kathy Litteral Promoted to Fill the Post**

Frankfort, Ky. (April 6, 2015) – Gary Beckstrom, a 37-year veteran of the Kentucky Department of Corrections and warden of the Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex (EKCC) in West Liberty, has announced his retirement effective May 31. Bell County Forestry Camp Warden Kathy Litteral will take the reins effective April 1, in order to train with Beckstrom before his departure.

Beckstrom has served as warden at EKCC since 2010. His distinguished career includes serving as the first warden of the state's newest prison, Little Sandy Correctional Complex, and being named the 2012 Warden of the Year. In addition, Beckstrom has received honors for outstanding merit and distinguished service.

"No one has earned it more or worked harder during their career with us than Gary Beckstrom," said Corrections Commissioner LaDonna Thompson. "After retiring in 2007, he returned to the department to assist during a crucial time with oversight of the Otter Creek Correctional Complex and its conversion. His expertise and guidance were sorely needed. We are happy for him as he begins a new chapter in his life, but we will miss him and the caliber of leadership he has brought to the department."

A 24-year veteran of the Department of Corrections, Litteral has served as warden at Bell County Forestry Camp since 2012. Prior to that, she served as deputy warden at EKCC from 2007 to 2012.

Litteral began her career as a classification and treatment officer at EKCC in March 1991. In 1993 she was promoted to unit administrator, and three years later was promoted to classification and treatment supervisor where she oversaw library services, religious services, volunteers and inmate programs. She was promoted to deputy warden in 2007.

In addition to her regular duties, she has also gained experience as a grievance coordinator, hostage negotiator, public information officer and litigation coordinator.

"When looking for the right candidate to lead the department's second largest institution, we needed someone with proven leadership abilities and demonstrated security knowledge," said Thompson. "Kathy Litteral fits that description completely. She has spent 21 years of her career in a wide array of positions at EKCC, including deputy warden, and she knows every aspect of the facility. She has been an invaluable asset to the department thus far in her career and we believe that will continue as she leads EKCC."

Litteral has received honors for employee and supervisor of the month. She is a member of the Kentucky Council on Crime and Delinquency (KCCD) and previously served as president of the Cave Run Chapter. She was also presented with KCCD's 2011 Adult Corrections Award. Her other memberships include the Southern States Correctional Association and the American Correctional Association.

A 1980 graduate of the University of Kentucky, Litteral received her bachelor's degree in psychology. In addition, she has completed 24 hours of graduate work at Morehead State University.

A native of West Liberty, she has been an active member of the West Liberty Christian Church and the West Liberty Kiwanis Club where she was named Kiwanian of the Year for 2009-2010 and co-Kiwanian of the year for 2012-2013 with her husband. The couple also coordinates the local community blood drives.

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Editor's note: photos attached